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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Twelfth session
25 March-4 April 1991
Agenda item 4

WATER RESOURCES

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. B. Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.9

The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Water resources development and progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, 1/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/

1/ General Assembly resolution S-18/3.

2/ General Assembly resolution 45/199.

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Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly approved the Mar del Plata Action Plan, 3/

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/181 of 21 December 1990 on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/7 of 22 May 1989, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its twelfth session a comprehensive report on strategies and measures necessary for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan,

Alarmed at the fact that at the end of the Decade one in three people in the developing countries still lacks access to water and sanitation services;

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on strategies and measures for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s; 4/

2. Takes note also of the report of the Secretary-General on activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources; 5/

3. Reaffirms the continuing validity of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, including the objectives and recommendations contained therein, endorses the four guiding principles, the actions recommended and the proposed follow-up, as enunciated in the New Delhi Statement and recognizes that the New Delhi Statement, 6/ adopted at the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, which was held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 September 1990, constitutes a positive step towards the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan;

4. Stresses that the ultimate goal of the Mar del Plata Action Plan is to promote the level of preparedness needed to avoid a water crisis of global dimensions by an efficient and productive use and management of scarce water resources, which are vital to development while taking into consideration the environmental concerns, inter alia, for the semi-arid and arid regions of developing countries;

3/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

4/ E/C.7/1991/8.

5/ E/C.7/1991/10.

6/ A/C.2/45/3, annex.

5. Emphasizes that the 1990s will require an intensification of national efforts and international development cooperation in order to ensure an efficient productive use and management of scarce water resources;

6. Reaffirms the urgent need for new strategies for integrated water resources development and management, including strategies in the domains of finance and technology to manage the growing demand for water and to achieve long-term sustainability of the water resources sector;

7. Stresses the need to strengthen and increase international assistance, including technical assistance, human resources development and exchange of information, to support the efforts of developing countries;

8. Urges the relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to assign a high degree of priority to activities, projects and programmes related to water resources undertaken at all levels by developing countries;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session, for consideration and follow-up, an analytical report on the progress made in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan with recommendations for future action on national and international levels, containing a summary of meetings, seminars and conferences on water held during the biennium 1991-1992;

10. Requests further the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its thirteenth session a compendium of legislative mandates adopted by the various entities of the United Nations system relevant to water resources.

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PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. E. Mamfoumbi (Gabon) on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.10

The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, 1/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/

Recalling its resolutions 1987/12 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/10 of 22 May 1989,

Reaffirming the right of all countries, especially developing countries to determine freely the use of their natural resources as a right inherent in their sovereignty,

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1/ General Assembly resolution S-18/3.

2/ General Assembly resolution 45/199.

Stressing the importance for all countries, in particular the developing countries, to make optimum use of their natural resources in order to strengthen and promote their economic and social development,

Concerned about the present international economic situation, in particular its impact on developing countries,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the permanent sovereignty over natural resources; 3/

2. Reaffirms the importance of the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources;

3. Encourages the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat to continue to play an active role in providing advisory services, at the request of Governments, in support of the exercise by Governments of their inalienable right of permanent sovereignty over natural resources, inter alia, in the field of exploration, development and management of natural resources, on policy and planning, on legislation and taxation, on contract negotiation and contract auditing and management, and on investment promotion and financing, and to continue organizing seminars to bring together experts and representatives of international companies and developing countries;

4. Takes note of the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, which is the focal point on matters related to transnational corporations and which is concerned with the whole range of issues that arise in dealing with relations between host countries and transnational corporations in various sectors, and encourages their continuing work providing information/analysis to requesting Governments aimed at strengthening their capability, based on the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a concise, updated report on permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

3/ E/C.7/1991/6.

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NEW TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING REMOTE SENSING, FOR IDENTIFYING, EXPLORING FOR AND ASSESSING NATURAL RESOURCES

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. B. Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.11

The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth session 1/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/

1/ General Assembly resolution S-18/3.

2/ General Assembly resolution 45/199.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/65 of 3 December 1986 on principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth from outer space,

Recalling its resolutions 1987/9 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/8 of 22 May 1989 on new techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources,

Bearing in mind the important role of remote-sensing data in the process of identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources,

Recognizing the need for developing countries to have access to the information obtained by remote sensing in order to optimize the use of their natural resources,

Stressing the contribution that developed countries can make in assisting the developing countries to integrate satellite remote-sensing data into their national mapping programmes,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on information referral systems on satellite remote-sensing data; 3/

2. Calls upon the developed countries to expand the sharing of their technical capacity on remote sensing with the developing countries;

3. Recommends that the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, in cooperation with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system and with the assistance of satellite launching States and organizations, to compile, for dissemination to developing countries, information on new data sets and the conditions under which such data can be obtained and the modalities for doing so;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to strengthen the capabilities of the developing countries in the application of remote-sensing techniques for the identification and subsequent exploration, exploitation and development of natural resources through workshops, seminars and training courses to be organized at the regional or country level in developing countries;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

3/ E/C.7/1991/7.

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COORDINATION OF PROGRAMMES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. B. Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.12

The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Coordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind section I of General Assembly resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 on the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, in particular, programme 19 thereof on natural resources,

Recalling its resolutions 1987/13 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/12 of 22 May 1989, on coordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources,

Convinced of the need to increase the effectiveness and relevance of the work of the United Nations system in the field of natural resources,

Stressing the crucial role of natural resources for economic growth and development, particularly that of the developing countries,

Welcoming the enhanced coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the field of natural resources, particularly in water resources,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources; 1/

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session an updated report containing an overview of the activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources, identifying the organizations or units within the United Nations system mandated to carry out work in those fields and assessing the extent to which the guidelines provided by the Committee have been followed;

3. Welcomes with appreciation the coordination mechanisms on water and sanitation issues, including the Inter-Agency Steering Committee for Water Supply and Sanitation, the Inter-Secretariat Group for Water Resources of the Administrative Committee for Coordination and the Collaborative Council for Water and Sanitation;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to include in his annual report, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1992, a section on the most effective ways and means of enhancing coordination in the mineral and energy sectors;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to prepare a compilation of the relevant decisions emanating from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the area of natural resources for priority consideration by the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session.

1/ E/C.7/1990/10.

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DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION IN DEVELOPING AND UTILIZING NATURAL RESOURCES

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. L. Hjelmaker (Sweden), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision E/C.7/1991/L.13

The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources

The Economic and Social Council, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources, 1/ requests the Secretary-General to continue to coordinate, through existing mechanisms, the activities being undertaken by the organs, organizations and programmes within the United Nations system as they relate to disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources, and to present orally an updated report thereon to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session.

1/ E/C.7/1991/11.

91-10988 3304Z (E)

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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. B. Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.14

Panel of experts on natural resources

The Committee on Natural Resources, mindful of the need to optimize its functions so that it may discharge its responsibilities, decides to request its Chairman to invite, on an experimental basis, if and when feasible, preferably six months before the convening of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, experts in the field of natural resources, in order to hold an informal exchange of views on trends and salient issues in the field of natural resources, within existing resources; this decision shall not prejudice the ongoing process of the restructuring and the revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

91-10994 3306Z (E)